

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to call up S. 360, a bill to honor the late Senator from Georgia, Paul Coverdell. I believe the enactment of this legislation is a fitting and appropriate way to memorialize Senator Coverdell and his work.

We were all shocked and saddened last July when he died so unexpectedly. The State of Georgia lost one of its greatest public servants, a soft-spoken and tireless public servant who served the people first and politics second.

In a public career spanning three decades, from the Georgia Senate to the Peace Corps to the U.S. Senate, he served with dignity and earned everybody's respect.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution has three components. The bill names the Washington headquarters of the Peace Corps after Paul Coverdell. The legislation reaffirms language approved at the end of last year to ensure that the Peace Corps World Wise Schools Program will carry his name, as well.

Senator Coverdell created the program during his tenure as Peace Corps director. The World Wise Schools initiative links Peace Corps volunteers serving around the globe with the classrooms here in the United States. Senator Coverdell correctly saw that such an effort would promote cultural awareness and foster an appreciation for global connections.

Finally, the legislation authorizes an appropriation of \$10 million, to be augmented by \$30 million of State and private funds to construct the Paul D. Coverdell building for biomedical and health sciences at the University of Georgia.

Senator Coverdell was a tireless supporter of education in Georgia, and this building will be a living memorial to him, and an unparalleled resource for the students, researchers, and educators of his State and our Nation.

I can believe there can be no more fitting tribute to Senator Coverdell and to all he achieved for the people of Georgia and the country that he loved and served until the day he died.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill. Mr. Speaker, S. 360 honors our former colleague, Senator Paul Coverdell, for his service to the country. Senator Coverdell served the citizens of the State of Georgia and the United States for over three decades as a State legislator, as Peace Corps director, and as United States Senator. I believe that this bill is a fitting and appropriate way to memorialize Paul Coverdell's work and service to our Nation.

This legislation, introduced by the distinguished minority leader of the Senate, TRENT LOTT, has three components. The bill names the Washington headquarters of the Peace Corps after

Paul Coverdell, and ensures that the Peace Corps' World Wise Schools program will carry his name, as well.

Senator Coverdell served as Peace Corps director from 1989 to 1991, critical years during which we witnessed the implosion of the Soviet Union and the opening up of Eastern Europe.

When the Berlin Wall came down, Senator Coverdell seized the opportunity to move the Peace Corps into Eastern Europe to promote freedom and democracy. This move not only broadened the agency's mission, but also increased its prestige across the globe.

During his tenure as Peace Corps director, Senator Coverdell established the widely-acclaimed World Wise Schools program.

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Under this program, Mr. Speaker, Peace Corps volunteers who have returned to the United States visit schools to give their students impressions and lessons from their overseas service. Senator Coverdell correctly saw that such an effort would promote cultural awareness and foster appreciation of global connections.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, our legislation authorizes funds to construct the Paul Coverdell Building for Biomedical and Health Sciences at the University of Georgia. Paul was a tireless supporter of education in Georgia, and this building will be a living memorial to him and an unparalleled resource for the students, researchers, and educators of his State and of our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fitting tribute to a great man and a good friend. I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER).

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I first met Paul Coverdell in 1972. He was one of few Republicans in the Georgia State Senate, soon to become its Republican leader, a position he served in for 15 years.

He had come to Georgia as a teenager from Iowa. He then attended the University of Missouri, graduated with a degree in journalism, and he went from there to the Army and was stationed at Okinawa and Taiwan. When he returned to Atlanta, he involved himself in a very, ultimately very, successful insurance business, the Coverdell Insurance Company, and continued his activities in politics.

In 1989, as has been said, he received an appointment as the head of the Peace Corps from President George Bush. I was curious as to why that was the position he wanted, since he could have had many others. He and President Bush were very close friends for very many years. But he told me that things were changing all over the world; that socialism and communism were going to ultimately be extinct. He

had watched the uprisings in Poland in 1980. And, of course, it was not long after he became the head of the Peace Corps that the walls came down. He sent, through the Peace Corps, its first volunteers to Bulgaria, the Czech and Slovak Republics, Hungary, Poland and Romania. And he also paved the way for the establishment of Peace Corps programs in China and Mongolia.

When he stepped down from the Peace Corps, he ran for the United States Senate and won. So he won four elections that year. He came very close in a primary, a primary runoff, a general election, and a general election runoff. And one of the first assignments he sought when he came to the Senate was the Committee on Agriculture, an industry that is so important to our State.

He got himself involved behind the scenes in the Senate as a hard worker. And those of us who have known him for all these years knew, he had always been a hard worker and he liked to work behind the scenes. It became part of the lore of the Senate that whenever a sticky issue came up, the Senate leader TRENT LOTT would say, "Send it to Mikey." There was a commercial at the time saying "Mikey will do anything; Mikey will eat anything." But the funny part of the story was that Paul had never heard of Mikey. He just thought it was a neat idea he was given all these challenges.

He focused on education, and it was his savings accounts targeted at children and children through high school that passed, along with Senator TORRICELLI. They were the authors of the A-Plus Accounts, or Education Savings Accounts. They now allow for a \$2,000 education savings account so parents can set aside for public or private K through 12 expenses tax free.

He was also a leader in Latin American drug enforcement, authoring a Federal law requiring the annual listing of the world's top suspected drug dealers in 1999, the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act.

This bill is a tribute to a lifetime of hard work for the people of this country, the people of Georgia, and for his party, in that order. The \$10 million authorization for the University of Georgia to construct the Paul D. Coverdell building at the Institute of Biomedical and Health Sciences at the University of Georgia is one-fourth of the cost of that project. Our Governor has committed \$10 million in State matching funds, and the University of Georgia has already arrived at the other \$20 million privately to build this living memorial, as the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) said, to a lifetime of service.

I recall waking up the morning that I heard that Paul had died and felt that there was a huge hole in my life because he had been a large part of it for 25 years. I am most sad that most of America will never know how much he is missed because his work was so quiet and so behind the scenes. I thought